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Bryan R Elkins <elkins@caliente.lincoln-nv.com> on 10/05/2001 01:59:23 PM

To: YMP\_SR@ymp.gov, brymelkins@lcturbonet.com  
CC:

Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT ON YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Part of Records Package / Supplement / Correction

As one of four representatives of the City of Caliente, Nevada on the Joint City/County Impact Alleviation Committee, an organization set up by Lincoln County Commisssioners and the Mayor of the City of Caliente, I participate in efforts to prepare for the apparent inevitability of Yucca Mountain becoming the national repository for high level nuclear waste. As a member, I am subject on a monthly basis to diatribes from anti-nuclear groups concerning my integrity, my ability to read materials and relate those materials to reality, my personal agenda, etc., etc., etc. I am therefore not interested in attending a public hearing concerning DOE efforts (all of which I feel are totally honorable and above board), as I have enough fodder for my ulcer in our own monthly meetings.

I with, on this last day for public comment, to commend DOE for its integrity, its efforts toward honest evaluation of risks and potentials at Yucca Mountain, and its ability to deflect even the most vociferous barbs sent their way. I wish to raise a voice of experience that high level nuclear fuel and waste can be safely handled and that it is of no great health hazard to the general populous, even when held in vast quantities, if it is handled carefully and according to good scientifically based procedures. DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PUBLIC POSTURE OF THE GOVERNOR AND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTS ALL OF THE CITIZENRY OF NEVADA -- ONLY THOSE GULLIBLE ENOUGH TO ACCEPT POLITICALLY CORRECT PROPAGANDA.

I had the responsibility in my Naval career as a Medical Service Corps Officer for medical contingency planning for events at the nuclear generating plants at Camp Pendleton, California and at the Naval Base in Charleston, South Carolina where we handled many nuclear powered submarines and other ships. I know how safely nuclear fuel and waste can be handled and the thought of it passing through my community in containers bound for Yucca Mountain holds no worry for me. I worry considerably more about our inability to deal with medical emergencies occasioned by the boxcars of explosives, the tankers of caustic acids, the pressurized tankers of chlorine and other toxic gases, etc. that pass through Caliente on a daily basis on the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Please realize that there is a significant silent portion of this society, even here in Nevada, that does not believe the rhetoric being publicized by the "worst case scenario" crowd. Please tally at least one voice that says: "Continue on with fact-based decisions for the permanent storage/disposal of this nation's and world's nuclear waste." Thank you for this opportunity.

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